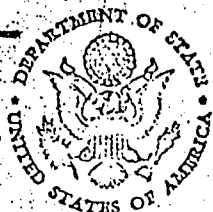


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1970/05/06



Department of State

TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET

Z 060330Z MAY 70 ZFF-3
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 690
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 369

INCN: 1 1 1 7Q
MAY 6, 1970
12:15 A.M.

BT

T O P S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 764

NODIS/KHMER

1. HAVE JUST COME FROM MEETING WITH GENERAL U SAY WHO HAD HIMSELF JUST LEFT GENERAL LON NOL. FOLLOWING IS SITUATION REPORT IN TWO AREAS AND REQUEST FOR HELP IN ONE PLUS SUGGESTED JOINT OPERATION IN SECOND.

2. ACCORDING U SAY, IN NEAK LUONG-BANAM AREA ON EAST BANK MEKONG, NVNA/VC HAVE ARMED GOODLY NUMBER OF LOCAL VIETNAMESE POPULATION. ON WEST BANK RIVER ENEMY HAS ATTACKED CAMBODIAN FORCES AT SAMRAONG THOM WT 279 581 AND HAVE ALSO ARMED A NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE LOCALS. AS WARNING TO CAMBODIAN LOCAL POPULATION TO COOPERATE U SAY STATES THAT ON MAY 4 ENEMY CUT OFF HEAD OF CAMBODIAN HEAD OF FAMILY AND RETURNED SAME TO HIS WIFE.

3. AS RESULT SITUATION JUST DESCRIBED, LON NOL HAS DECIDED TO LAUNCH COUNTERATTACK BEGINNING TODAY MAY 6, USING KHMER KROM AS WELL AS OTHER AVAILABLE TROOPS AND AVIATION.

4. IN CONJUNCTION WITH DRIVE, LON NOL ISSUING COMMUNIQUE WHICH WILL BE READ OVER RADIO WARNING BOTH VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN POPULATION OF NEAK LUONG AND BANAM AREAS TO EVACUATE AREA BUT TO CONTINUE FIGHT AROUND PREY VENG-BANAM REGION.

5. COMMUNIQUE FURTHER STATES THAT CAMBODIA HAS ASKED SVN HELP SAVE VIETNAMESE IN AREA WHO ARE NOT VC. COMMUNIQUE CLOSES WITH WORD REGARDING PRESENCE OF SVN DELEGATION IN CAMBODIA WHICH IS TRYING TO GET GOOD VIETNAMESE OUT OF HARM'S WAY.

6. LON NOL REQUESTS, IF POSSIBLE, THAT SVN ARMORED COLUMN BE SENT POST HASTE FROM SVEY RIENG TO NEAK LUONG WITH OBJECTIVE OF REMOVING AND EVACUATING TO VIETNAM ALL VIETNAMESE POPULATION WHO ARE NOT RPT NOT FRIENDLY TO NVNA/VC.

7. GENERAL U SAY ALSO DESCRIBED SITUATION IN NORTHEAST, STATING KRATIE HAS FALLEN TO ENEMY AND TROOPS AND LARGE PART OF POPULATION EVAUCATED TO WESTERN BANK.

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-2- PHNOM PENH 764, MAY 6. NODIS/KIMER

INCN: 1117Q

8. HE FURTHER STATED THAT UPON INSTRUCTION GENERAL LON NOL, GENERAL POK SAM AN PROCEEDING TO BUNG-LUNG AIRPORT YA 1518 IN RATANSKIRI FOR MEETING WITH VIETNAMESE COMMANDER, SECOND COMBAT TASK GROUP. CAMBODIANS ARE PORPOSING THAT PRESENT US/ARVN ATTACK INTO AREA BE TURNED INTO A COMBINED OPERATION WITH CAMBODIANS WITH AIM OF CLEARING ENTIRE AREA UP TO MEKONG RIVER.

9. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR POSSIBLE THAT CURRENT NVNA/VC DEIVES TO SECURE EAST BANK MEKONG COINCIDE WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMATION OF SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT IN EXILE AND RECOGNITION SAME BY CHICOMS, BOTH HEARALDING EARLY INSTALLATION SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT IN EASTERN CAMBODIA.

10. WHILE SUCH STEP WILL MAKE SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT BOTH FOR GOC AND USG, I CANNOT RECOMMEND THAT WE SHOULD BECOME MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED THROUGH SUCH COOPERATION AS THAT SUGGESTED IN NORTHEAST. AS CONCERNS INVOLVEMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE COLUMN TO NEAK LUONG, THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED, IF PHSICALLY FEASIBLE, ON GROUNDS SUGGESTED BY CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES: THAT IS, IN ORDER REMOVE FRIENDLY VIETNAMESE POPULATION TO VIETNAM.

IF SVN TROOPS SHOULD MOVE, THEY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SEVERAL BRIDGES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED ON ROUTE 1 AND THAT THEY WOULD THEREFORE NEED BRIDGING EQUIPMENT FOR ARMOR.

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